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REPORT OF PROJECT NR CE 862
EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

19 DECEMBER 1962

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. ARMY AIRBORNE, ELECTRONICS AND SPECIAL WARFARE BOARD
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

STEBF-CE

16 January 1963

SUBJECT: Report of Project Nr CE 862, Evaluation of Multipurpose Fabric Net

TO: Commanding Generals,
XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
US Army Quartermaster Research and Engineering Center, Natick,
Massachusetts
US Army Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth,
Kansas
Commandant, US Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia
Commanding Officers,
US Army Jungle Warfare Training Center, Fort Sherman, Panama,
Canal Zone
US Army Limited Warfare Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Maryland
US Army Special Warfare Combat Developments Agency, Fort Bragg,
North Carolina
President, US Army Infantry Board, Fort Benning, Georgia
Commander, Armed Services Technical Information Agency,
Document Service Center, Arlington 12, Virginia
British Liaison Officer, US Army Airborne, Electronics and
Special Warfare Board, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Canadian Liaison Officer, US Army Airborne, Electronics and
Special Warfare Board, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Marine Corps Liaison Officer, US Army Airborne, Electronics
and Special Warfare Board, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

1. Subject report is forwarded for your information and retention.
2. Headquarters US Army Test and Evaluation Command approved the report.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

1 Incl
as


ALLEN W. RODEHEFFER
Lt Colonel, Artillery
Secretary

Copy furnished:
CG, USATECOM, ATTN: AMSTE-BC,
APG, Md (w/o incl)

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. ARMY AIRBORNE, ELECTRONICS AND SPECIAL WARFARE BOARD
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

19 December 1962

REPORT OF PROJECT NR CE 862
EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

1. AUTHORITY:

a. Directive: Disposition Form, MD USCONARC, 23 April 1962,
subject: "Evaluation of Multipurpose Fabric Net."

b. Purpose: Determine, in conjunction with the US Army Special Warfare Center, suitability of the Multipurpose Fabric Net for Army use in Special Forces operations.

2. REFERENCE: Plan of Test, Project Nr CE 862, US Army Airborne, Electronics and Special Warfare Board, 14 June 1962, "Evaluation of Multipurpose Fabric Net."

3. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIEL: The Multipurpose Fabric Net (Annex C.1), the test item, is a lightweight, olive green, nylon net. It weighs one pound and is approximately six feet wide and eight feet long with a 9/16 inch mesh. It has selvage along the long side with the nylon ends melted together on the short side. The test item in a hammock configuration is strong enough to support a 200-pound man. It can be wadded and placed into a fatigue trouser pocket (Annex C.2).

4. BACKGROUND:

a. Special forces detachments have a need for strong but lightweight nets when operating in the jungle. Field expedient nets have been made from nylon parachute suspension lines. These nets are primarily used as hammocks but they can also be used as improvised litters, camouflage nets, sniper's roosts, containers for bulky loads, for air drop or tree caching of supplies, and to catch fish or trap small animals. The field expedient nets are heavier than necessary. The test item is designed to provide a suitable net of minimum size and weight.

b. There is no stated requirement for this item in CDOG.

c. The U. S. Army Special Warfare School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, submitted a proposed Qualitative Materiel Requirement to

US Continental Army Command on 3 August 1961. USCONARC disapproved it on 18 October 1961. Subsequently, Chief, Research and Development, Department of the Army, directed The Quartermaster General to provide 200 nets to USCONARC for evaluation.

d. The test item was received 15 October 1962.

5. SUMMARY OF TESTS: The test item is satisfactory with respect to:

- a. Size and weight (Test Nr 1).
- b. Use as an improvised hammock (Test Nr 2).
- c. Use as an improvised litter (Test Nr 3).
- d. Use as a container for carrying appropriate loads by man or pack animals (Test Nr 4).
- e. Caching supplies (Test Nr 5).
- f. Use as a sniper's roost (Test Nr 6).
- g. Use as a camouflage net (Test Nr 7).
- h. Use in catching fish and trapping small animals (Test Nr 8).
- i. Use in air delivery and air transport operations (Test Nr 9).
- j. Durability (Test Nr 10).
- k. Maintenance and the ability of using personnel to perform required maintenance (Test Nr 11).

6. DISCUSSION:

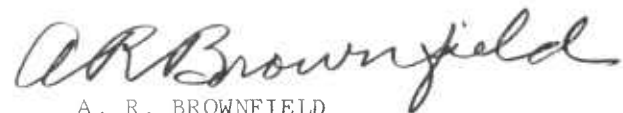
a. The test item is available only in the olive green color. The question arises whether or not the item should be issued capable of being dyed; e.g., white for arctic use, tan for desert use, and green for jungle use. Informal coordination with the Quartermaster Research and Engineering Command indicates that in order to effect all three colors the test item would have to be issued in a neutral or white color. Informal discussions with personnel of the Special Warfare Center indicate that the test item will be used at least 95% of the time in jungle-type terrain. This means that the item when issued would almost always have to be dyed green. It is the considered opinion of test personnel that the present olive green color is adequate.

b. Initial opinions of test personnel and the discussions with the Special Warfare Center indicated a desire to have all four sides of the test item selvaged to increase durability and eliminate some stretching. Informal coordination with the Quartermaster Research and Engineering Command indicated that a complete change in the manufacturer's process would be necessary to provide knitted selvage on all four sides. However, a nylon tape might possibly be sewn or fused to the unselvaged sides of the test item. Testing revealed that this modification would not be necessary as stretching was not a serious problem and no particular lack of durability was noted on the unselvaged sides.

c. Techniques for rigging the test item in its various uses are on file at this Board.

7. CONCLUSION: The Multipurpose Fabric Net is suitable for Army use in Special Forces operations.

8. RECOMMENDATION: That the Multipurpose Fabric Net be type classified Standard A.



A. R. BROWNFIELD
Colonel, Artillery
President

ANNEXES:

- A - Details of Tests
- B - Findings (Omitted)
- C - Photographs

ANNEX A - DETAILS OF TEST

REPORT OF PROJECT NR CE 862

Tests were conducted by Captain Clifford J. Landry and other personnel of this Board. These tests were fully representative of the uses for the test item envisioned by special forces personnel. Fifty test items were delivered to the US Army Special Warfare Center for test. However, due to operational requirements and the security attached thereto, the detachments operating with the test item could not be contacted for comment. Should contact later be accomplished, pertinent information will be forwarded.

1. TEST NR 1

a. Purpose: Determine the physical characteristics of the test item.

b. Method:

(1) The test item was weighed, measured, and examined.

(2) The test item was stretched by four men pulling at the corners, and measurements taken.

c. Results:

(1) Normal dimensions and approximate weights:

<u>Length</u> <u>(in)</u>	<u>Width</u> <u>(in)</u>	<u>Mesh</u> <u>(in)</u>	<u>Weight</u> <u>(dry)</u>	<u>Weight</u> <u>(wet)</u>
99	75	9/16	1 lb	2 lbs

(2) Stretched dimensions:

<u>Length</u> <u>(in)</u>	<u>Width</u> <u>(in)</u>	<u>Mesh</u> <u>(in)</u>
116	94	1 5/16

A.1 (CE 862)

2. TEST NR 2

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for use as an improvised hammock.

b. Method: The test item was rigged as an improvised hammock in three configurations: three cornered or triangular using three trees as tie-off supports, four-cornered using four trees, and two-ended using two trees (Annex C.3). Three different materials were used for tie-off. These were Wire WD-1/TT with a rated tensile strength of 200 pounds; type II nylon cord with a rated tensile strength of 375 pounds; and 1/2 inch tubular nylon webbing with a rated tensile strength of 1,000 pounds. Test personnel weighing from 140 to 200 pounds utilized the hammocks for a period of approximately one week. Opinions of test personnel were evaluated.

c. Results:

(1) Wire WD-1/TT and the type II nylon cord broke under the weight of a 140-pound man. The 1/2 inch tubular nylon webbing was adequate.

(2) The test item tore when the tie-off material was threaded in any manner through the mesh. It was necessary to wrap the tie-off material securely around the gathered corners of the test item.

(3) The rear pocket buttons of fatigue trousers caught in the mesh of the test item and frequently tore off. This effect seemed unavoidable with the type material used in the test item since the mesh stretches approximately 12/16 inches (Test Nr 1) and the size of a fatigue trouser button is approximately 11/16 inches. Opinions of test personnel were that this effect was not serious enough to preclude use of the test item as an improvised hammock.

(4) The two-ended configuration was the easiest to construct and the most comfortable.

3. TEST NR 3

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for use as an improvised litter.

b. Method: The test item was rigged as an improvised litter. Two 7-foot poles were fashioned from available trees. The non-selvaged sides of the test item were rolled on these poles and secured with nylon cord tie-downs to form a litter. A 6-foot, 140-pound man was carried by two personnel (Annex C.4).

c. Results: The litter patient was carried comfortably and successfully without damage to or failure of the test item.

4. TEST NR 4

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for use as a container for carrying appropriate loads by man and pack animals.

b. Method:

(1) The test item containing one case of C-rations (38 lbs) was rigged on personnel (Annex C.5). Two men, alternating each 2 1/2 hours, carried the load on a one-day field march of approximately 8 hours. Total time carried by one man was 5 hours. After each change and at the conclusion of the march, personnel were inspected for abrasions, rubs, and sores.

(2) The test item containing approximately 250 pounds of various supplies was rigged on a horse, using sleeping bags for padding (Annex C.6). The animal was led on a one-day field march (approximately 8 hours). The horse was inspected at the end of 4 hours and at the termination of the march for abrasions, rubs, and sores.

c. Results:

(1) (a) The loaded test item was carried successfully by test personnel with no damage to the test item. Test personnel experienced some soreness of the shoulder muscles and fatigue at the end of 2 1/2 hours.

(b) It is the opinion of test personnel that the test item is acceptable, in the absence of packboards or other standard load carrying devices, but should not be carried by one man for a period exceeding 2 1/2 hours unless the situation dictates otherwise.

(2) (a) The loaded test item was easily carried by the horse. The animal suffered no abrasions, rubs, or sores. At the end of the march, it was noted that two small holes were torn in the test item by the sharp corners of ammunition cases. These were readily repaired and were considered insignificant.

(b) It is the opinion of test personnel that, in the absence of an "A-frame" pack rig, the test item is satisfactory as a field expedient.

5. TEST NR 5

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for caching supplies.

b. Method: Supplies weighing approximately 230 pounds were wrapped in the test item and cached in trees (Annex C.7) and under fresh water for periods of one week each. Prevailing weather conditions at Fort Bragg, N. C., included heavy rain and an approximate 20 mph wind. The caches were inspected daily.

c. Results:

(1) No failure of the test item occurred.

(2) The test item was not damaged.

6. TEST NR 6

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for use as a sniper's roost.

b. Method: A sniper's roost was rigged near the top of a large tree in the following manner (Annex C.8): The test item was stretched out and secured to large branches of the tree by nylon cord to form a platform or semi-basket. Test personnel armed with rifles manned the site to determine comfort, strength, and adequacy of the test item. Opinions of these test personnel were evaluated.

c. Results:

(1) Test personnel were able to kneel, sit, squat, or lie down in the test item and to assume a steady firing position.

(2) It is the opinion of test personnel that the test item is satisfactory for use as a sniper's roost.

7. TEST NR 7

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item as a camouflage net.

b. Method: Test personnel armed with carbines were semi-concealed in brush using available natural camouflage. The test item was then draped over the head and body of test personnel, garnished with leaves and a comparison of detectability made between the two situations (Annex C.9).

c. Results: Test personnel were much more difficult to detect when wearing the test item. The test item did not interfere with the personnel's ability to sight and aim a rifle.

8. TEST NR 8

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for use in catching fish and trapping small animals.

b. Method:

(1) Three test items were tied together with nylon cord to form a fish net. The ends of the test item were secured with poles. Rocks tied to the bottom of the test item provided the necessary weights and sticks tied at intervals along the top were used as floats (Annex C.10). The test item was used in creeks and ponds at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

(2) Three type traps were constructed using the test item. These were: A snare trap, a pit trap, and a lean-to or bird trap (Annex C.11). The traps were baited and set along animal trails at Fort Bragg, N. C. The traps were inspected daily.

c. Results:

(1) Approximately 75 fish ranging in size from 1" to 8" were caught in creeks and ponds.

(2) No animals were actually caught, possibly due to their scarcity. However, opinions of test personnel are that the test item is satisfactory for building adequate traps.

9. TEST NR 9

a. Purpose: Determine the suitability of the test item for use in air drop and air transport operations.

b. Method:

(1) Bulk supplies were enclosed by the test item to form loads of various sizes and shapes. The following rigging methods were used:

(a) Rigging Method Nr 1: Test item in an "H" harness to be jumped by a parachutist (Annex C.12).

(b) Rigging Method Nr 2: Test item used in conjunction with the A-7A cargo sling (Annex C.13).

(c) Rigging Method Nr 3: Test item used in conjunction with nylon climbing rope (Annex C.13).

(d) Rigging Method Nr 4: Test item used alone (Annex C.14).

(2) Loads rigged as described in each of the methods above were dropped from aircraft at altitudes and air speeds as indicated below. Motion pictures were taken and studied.

(3) The test item was inspected for damage after each drop (Annex C.15).

(4) The test item was used as a tiedown device for internal transport of supplies in a C-130 aircraft. Four cases Food Packet, Indigenous, and three (A3) aviator kit bags filled with field gear were restrained (Annex C.16).

c. Results:

(1) No difficulties were encountered in rigging. However, due to the friction between the nylon climbing rope and nylon net which resulted in holes being burned in the test item, Rigging Method Nr 3 is marginally suitable and should be used only when the A-7A cargo sling is not available.

(2) Parachute drops:

<u>Drop Nr</u>	<u>Rigging Method Nr</u>	<u>Type Acft</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>IAS</u>	<u>Gross Rigged Wt (Incl Prcht)</u>	<u>Parachute</u>
1	1	C-130	1,250'	125K	25 lb (Net)	T-10
2	4	C-130	1,250'	125K	85 lb	68" Pilot
3	3	C-130	300'	125K	90 lb	Poncho Pilot
4	2	C-130	1,250'	125K	85 lb	68" Pilot
5	3	C-130	1,250'	125K	85 lb	68" Pilot
6	4	C-130	1,250'	125K	85 lb	68" Pilot
7	2	C-119	1,250'	125K	150 lb	G-1A
8	3	C-119	1,250'	125K	150 lb	G-1A
9	2	L-19	300'	60K	80 lb	68" Pilot
10	3	L-19	300'	60K	80 lb	68" Pilot

(3) All drops were successful, with the following exceptions:

(a) Drop Nr 3: The poncho tore loose 3 seconds after leaving the aircraft, and the bundle free fell into a thick briar patch in a wooded area. The bundle remained intact but the test item sustained two rips (3" x 1/2" and 2" x 1/2").

(b) Drop Nr 8: Test item sustained three holes, 1" x 1", as a result of friction between the nylon climbing rope and nylon net.

(c) Drop Nr 10: The 68" Pilot Parachute did not deploy, resulting in free fall. The bundle remained intact but the test item sustained rips.

(4) Tiedown test: The test item is suitable in the absence of standard tiedown devices.

10. TEST NR 10

a. Purpose: Determine whether the test item is sufficiently durable for field use.

b. Method:

(1) During the preceding tests, any evidence of a lack of durability was noted and the type of failure and circumstances recorded.

(2) The test item was suspended in salt water for a period of one week to determine effect on durability.

c. Results:

(1) The test item tore when rigged improperly as an improvised hammock (Test Nr 2); when properly rigged no damage occurred.

(2) The test item sustained small breaks and/or tears when wrapped around a load and dropped under high velocity conditions (Test Nr 9). These tears were easily mended.

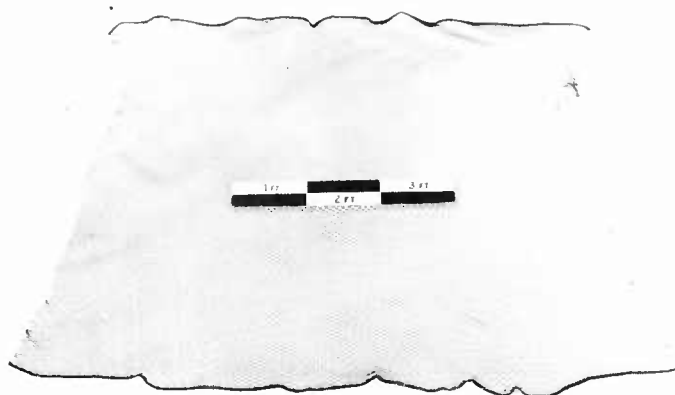
(3) Immersion in salt water had no adverse effect on the test item.

11. TEST NR 11

a. Purpose: Determine maintenance required by the item and whether using personnel can perform required maintenance.

b. Method: Maintenance required by the test item was recorded and evaluated. Techniques and materials used to maintain the test item were noted.

c. Results: Maintenance required consisted of repairing tears and/or breaks in the test item. Using personnel easily repaired the damage utilizing type II nylon cord or the single strands of nylon contained within the cord.



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PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 1 & 2
ANNEX C.1

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET



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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 3D
ANNEX C.2

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET
MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET WADDED INTO FATIGUE
TROUSER POCKET



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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 33, 35, 39
ANNEX C.3

UPPER LEFT: THREE-CORNERED HAMMOCK CONFIGURATION
UPPER RIGHT: FOUR-CORNERED HAMMOCK CONFIGURATION
LOWER: TWO-ENDED HAMMOCK CONFIGURATION



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PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 23
ANNEX C,4

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET
MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR IMPROVISED LITTER



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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 36
ANNEX C.5

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED AS A CONTAINER FOR
CARRYING LOADS BY MAN



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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 13
ANNEX C.6

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET
MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED AS A CONTAINER FOR
CARRYING LOADS BY PACK ANIMAL



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EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 18
ANNEX C.7

UPPER: MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR CACHE LOAD
LOWER: MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR TREE CACHE



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EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR SNIPER'S ROOST

PROJECT CE 862

NEGATIVE 34, 38

ANNEX C.8

UPPER: SIDE VIEW

LOWER: BACK VIEW



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EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 24, 25
ANNEX C.9

UPPER: ARMED PERSONNEL UTILIZING AVAILABLE CAMOUFLAGE
LOWER: ARMED PERSONNEL USING MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET
FOR CAMOUFLAGE

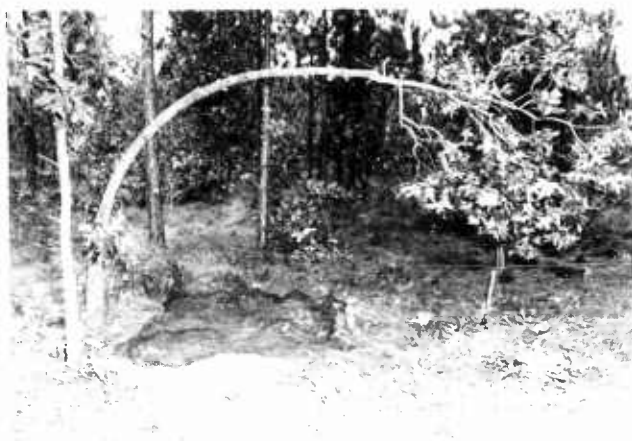


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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 7, 10
ANNEX C.10

UPPER: THREE MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NETS CONSTRUCTED
AS FISH NET
LOWER: FISH NET IN USE

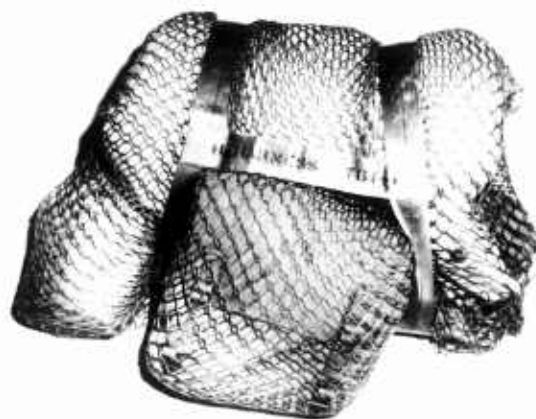


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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 22, 37, 41
ANNEX C.11

UPPER LEFT: MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR SNARE TRAP
UPPER RIGHT: MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR PIT TRAP
LOWER: MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET USED FOR BIRD TRAP



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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 2A, 3A, 7A, 8A
ANNEX C.12

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

UPPER LEFT: "H" HARNESS WITH NET AND FIELD GEAR
RIGGED ON JUMPER; RIGHT VIEW
UPPER RIGHT: "H" HARNESS WITH NET AND FIELD GEAR
RIGGED ON JUMPER; FRONT VIEW
LOWER LEFT: "H" HARNESS WITH NET AND FIELD GEAR;
FRONT VIEW
LOWER RIGHT: "H" HARNESS WITH NET AND FIELD GEAR;
REAR VIEW

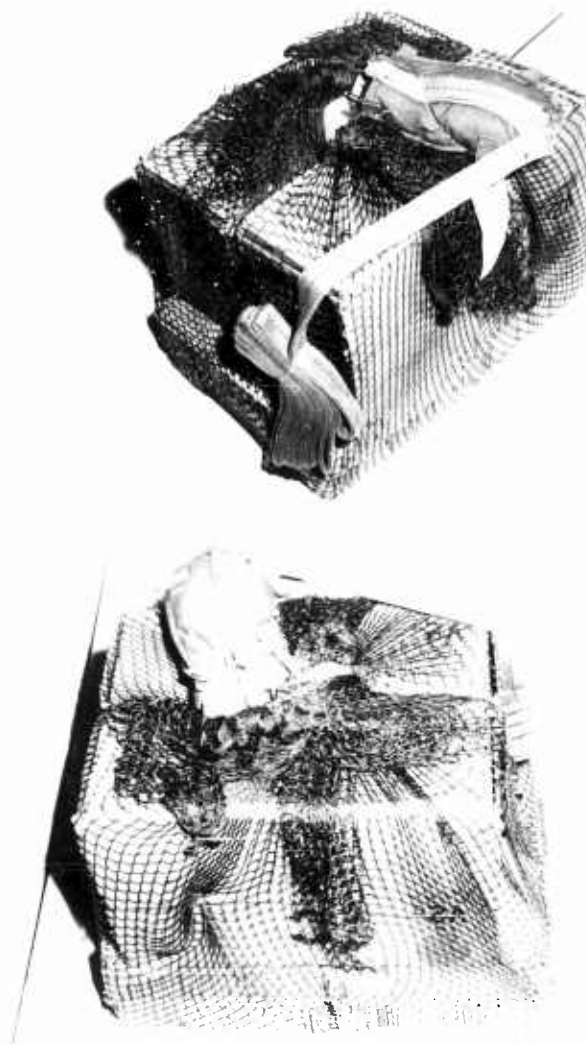


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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 5A, 10A, 11A
ANNEX C. 13

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

UPPER LEFT: 150-POUND LOAD RIGGED WITH G-1A
PARACHUTE AND A-7A SLINGS
UPPER RIGHT: 150-POUND LOAD RIGGED WITH G-1A
PARACHUTE AND NYLON CLIMBING ROPE
LOWER: LOAD RIGGED WITH MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET,
NYLON MOUNTAIN CLIMBING ROPE, AND PONCHO
(LOAD ON 3" HONEYCOMB)

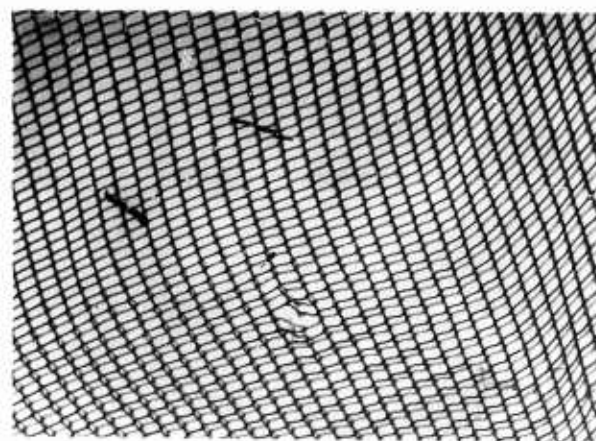
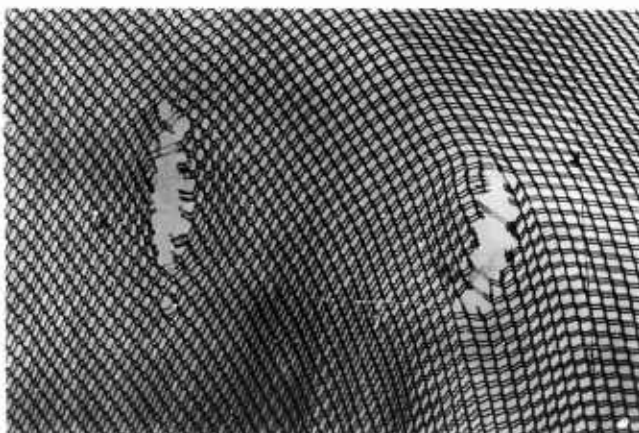


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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 1A, 6A
ANNEX C.14

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

TWO VIEWS OF LOAD RIGGED WITH MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC
NET AND 68" PARACHUTE (LOAD ON 3" HONEYCOMB)

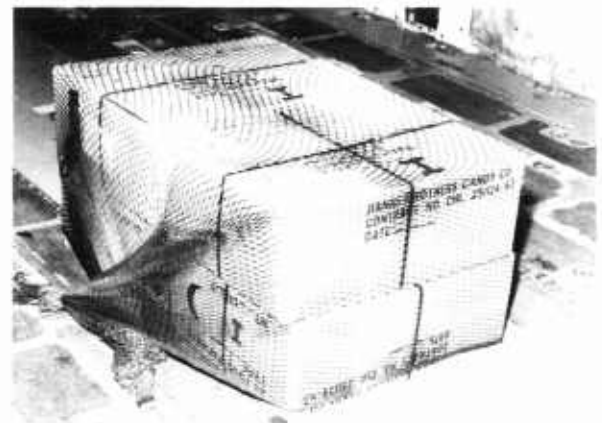
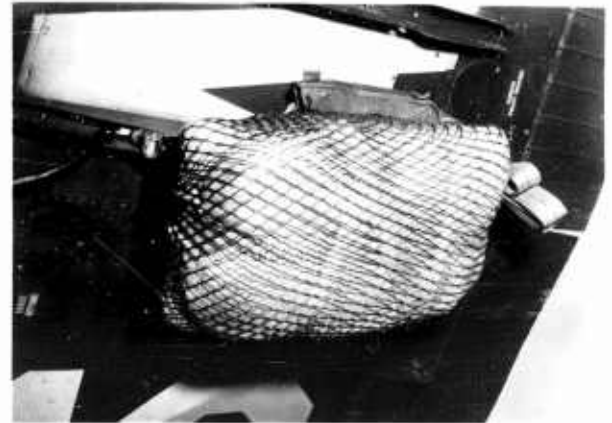


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FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 12A, 13A, 15A, 16A
ANNEX C.15

EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

UPPER LEFT: 3" x 1/2" AND 2" x 1/2" TEARS SUSTAINED
AS RESULT OF FREE-FALL INTO BRIAR PATCH
UPPER RIGHT: CLOSE-UP of 1" x 1" TEAR CAUSED BY NYLON
CLIMBING ROPE
LOWER LEFT: BUNDLE TIED WITH NYLON ROPE (G-1A
PARACHUTE): THREE HOLES 1" x 1"
LOWER RIGHT: BUNDLE RIGGED WITH A-7A CARGO SLING AND
G-1A PARACHUTE; NO DAMAGE TO NET



EVALUATION OF MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

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PROJECT CE 862
NEGATIVE 17A, 20A, 22A, 18A
ANNEX C. 16

UPPER LEFT: BUNDLES SUSPENDED BY "D" RINGS ON L-19 AIRCRAFT
UPPER RIGHT: BOTTOM VIEW OF BUNDLE SUSPENDED FROM WING OF L-19 AIRCRAFT
LOWER LEFT: AVIATOR KIT BAGS RESTRAINED BY MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET
LOWER RIGHT: CASES OF FOOD RESTRAINED BY MULTIPURPOSE FABRIC NET

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